

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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EXDIS

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJ: REORGANIZATION OF PACIFIC AIR FORCES

1. USAF CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL DAVID C. JONES VISITED ME JANUARY 14 DURING BRIEF TRANSIT OF PHILIPPINES. HE GAVE ME SUMMARY OF HIS PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING REORGANIZATION OF PACIFIC AIR FORCES, WHICH YOU WILL RECALL WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY IN HONOLULU.

2. THE JONES PLAN IS TO DISESTABLISH PACAF, ON SCHEDULE, THIS COMING JUNE. AT SAME TIME, HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ABOLISH SAG, WHICH CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THAILAND. HE WOULD PROPOSE CONSOLIDATE ALL THESE ACTIVITIES INTO SINGLE HEADQUARTERS, TO BE LOCATED AT CLARK AND TO BE HEADED BY LOU WILSON, FOUR STAR GENERAL WHO CURRENTLY HEADS PACAF.

3. WHEN I ASKED JONES WHAT TITLE HE PROPOSED FOR WILSON, HE DID FAST BUCK AND WING AND CAME UP WITH TWO: COMMANDER 13TH AF, AND COMMANDER SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. WITHOUT COMMITTING MYSELF IN ANY WAY ON DESIRABILITY OF FOUR-STAR COMMANDER OF 13TH AF, I MADE CLEAR TO JONES THAT ESTABLISHMENT SOUTHWEST PACIFIC COMMAND IN CLARK WAS NON-STARTER. IT CARRIED TOO MANY UNEXPLAINED IMPLICATIONS AND WOULD CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR MARCOS. (I DID NOT RPT NOT TELL JONES THAT JIM SCHLESINGER TOLD ME HE

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WAS OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF ANY NEW COMMANDS.)

4. JONES UNDERSTOOD MY OBJECTIONS AND SAID IT MIGHT BE SATISFACTORY TO HAVE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC COMMAND AS A "GHOST" FUNCTION TO BE ACTIVATED ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY. THE OSTENSIBLE TITLE WOULD THEN BE 13TH AF, AND ITS INCREASED RANK COULD BE EXPLAINED BY ASSIGNING MORE AIRCRAFT TO CLARK.

5. JONES THEN ASKED ME TO PROTECT THIS INFORMATION AS PRIVILEGED SINCE IT HAD NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN WRUNG OUT IN JCS AND DOD. HOWEVER, SINCE CARL MAW SAT IN ON CONVERSATION, HE MUST BE AWARE THAT STATE IS INFORMED.

6. COMMENT: I SUPPOSE WE COULD ACCOMMODATE A FOUR STAR BILLET IF WE HAVE TO, AND I CONSIDER LOU WILSON PERSONALLY COMPATIBLE. HOWEVER, IT WILL PROBABLY COST US SOMETHING IF WE CONSPICUOUSLY ESCALATE THIS WAY. A THREE STAR OFFICER WOULD SEEM ADEQUATE TO THE TASK, IF WE CAN KEEP THE WHOLE SHOW AS A 13TH AF ARRANGEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, A "SOUTHWEST PACIFIC COMMAND," WHICH WOULD SEEM UNWISE TO FLOAT IN THE TEETH OF THE CURRENT U.S. CONGRESS ANYWAY, IS, IN MY JUDGEMENT, OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR CLARK. I WOULD HOPE YOU CAN MOVE IN ON THIS, PROTECTING JONES BY REFERRING BACK TO OUR HONOLULU CONVERSATIONS, AND REGISTER THE POINT THAT STATE HAS AN INTEREST IN SHAPING THE DECISION ON THIS MATTER BEFORE IT GETS SET IN PENTAGON CONCRETE. PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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